



NOVEMBER 7, 2019

# The RECORDER

**Death Notices:** (see page 3)

GERALD COLLINS “JERRY”, age 72 of Prescott Valley, AZ,

JULIA S. JOHNSON, age 90 of Battle Creek

CAMILLA “MICKEY” MALONE, age 90, of Marshall

JEAN LUCILLE SOUTHWELL, age 95 of Marshall

**AREA SPORTS IN THIS WEEK’S RECORDER**

**Concord High School**  
Boys and Girls Cross Country, page 6  
Softball, page 5

**Marshall High School**  
Boys and Girls Cross Country, page 5  
Football, page 6  
Softball, page 5



Carter Ware from Albion poses ready to work his way through the crowds for candy

See page 2



Marshall High School runner Olivia Zulewski finished 109th overall

See page 5



Rotary Club of Albion

See page 3



Albion-Homer United Way

See page 6

## When a fight doesn’t end: On the same night, a second altercation leads to fatal shooting in Albion

By MICHELLE MUELLER  
Contributing Writer

All guests were made to leave one Albion nightclub venue after a fight broke out in which Amonte Bowser, 27, of Albion, was allegedly assaulted. Bowser then sought out another party in the 1400 block of Cooper Street and ended up being shot at about 4 a.m. on Nov. 2. When Albion Public Safety officers arrived on the scene, they discovered the injured Bowser lying in the street outside a home. The officers began first aid until an ambulance arrived, but Bowser died of his wounds at Oaklawn Hospital in Marshall.

Maurice Barry, owner of the Noon or Night Recording Studio club at 500 Austin Ave. that Bowser had first visited, said Tues-

day that he has since met with investigators from ADPS and the Calhoun County Major Crimes Task Force, and turned over to them security videos which captured the fistfight.

Barry explained in an interview with the Recorder that he routinely searches all persons entering his club to ensure that no weapons are brought in, and that for the 20 years he has been hosting parties here in Albion and elsewhere in the state, this has ensured that nothing worse than fists have occasionally gone flying.

“When the fight broke out, I threw everyone out, and they all left peacefully – that’s a skill that I have,” said Barry, who is a formidable figure in person. “The 911 operator who I was on the phone with was surprised that the group had dissipated so fast. It is so sad that

this guy went to another party.”

Detective Justin Reniger of ADPS has reported that Bowser obtained a firearm at a home in Albion before he went to the second party. The gun has been recovered by police. “The investigation is ongoing. We have multiple leads we’re tracking down, and we hope the public will lend some assistance,” said Reniger on Tuesday.

Barry said that he’s had “a long-time relationship with this hip hop/rap music crowd and nothing escalated to more than a punch in the face. I’ve been trying to get Amonte in the studio for a long time – this guy could sing.”

Bowser, who is from Battle Creek and went to Battle Creek Central High School, is the cousin of Joseph Bowser, II, 23, who was shot and killed March 23, 2018 in Battle Creek.

No arrests have been made in that case. Reniger has said the shootings are not connected.

Bowser posted a video on Facebook talking about the assault as he was driving away from Noon or Night, and his social media page is filled with comments.

“I do pride myself on nothing any more serious ever happening at my parties,” Barry said in his interview. “And Albion is not responsible for what happened. Unfortunately, it’s part of the hip hop culture – this violence and the language [on Bowser’s video]. That’s just the way it is culturally.”

Anyone with information about the shooting is asked to call D/Sgt. Nicole Wygant at 517-629-7824 or Silent Observer at 517-629-2700. A \$1,000 reward is available for information leading to the arrest of a suspect.

## Trick-or-Treaters face snowy weather; reap yummy rewards



Photos by Sylvia Benavidez

Albion College Kellogg Center was the place to be for tricks as well as treats.

By SYLVIA BENAVIDEZ  
Contributing Writer

The cold snowy weather did not deter Albion’s Trick-or-Treaters from their candy. From St. John Catholic Church to Albion Free Methodist Church to Albion College and the streets in-between, children of all ages braved rain and then large snowflakes with wind on Thursday, Oct. 31.

For those passing out candy, they had to become creative in adjusting to nature’s trick for Halloween night. Albion College made some major changes for their festivities

for the area’s children.

“This is the first time we ever have had it all indoors before. Considering that we decided to do it yesterday, I think it’s running pretty smoothly,” said Kristen Sarniak, assistant director for Greek Life and student organizations event coordinator.

Sarniak explained that the children first visit four stops at Upper Baldwin and then are escorted to 34 station on all four floors of the Kellogg Center. The stations were manned

See **TRICK-OR-TREATERS** on page 2

## Former Union Steel building may finally be coming down



File photo

By ANN DWYER  
Contributing Writer

After a presentation by Krista Trout-Edwards, executive director of the Calhoun County Land Bank Authority, city council agreed to help fund the demolition of the building that has become a blight since its closure in 1995.

The CCLBA came to the city asking for \$300,000 to help cover the \$420,000 cost of demolition. After much discussion, city council agreed to pay \$100,000 up front from the general fund in 2020. They will then pay \$50,000 for the next four years. Council will decide during those years from which funds they will pull to cover the cost.

See **UNION STEEL** on page 3

## Concord Village rails installed, and it’s a wrap

By KEN WYATT  
Contributing Writer

It has taken awhile, but Concord Village offices should now be compliant, inviting and even handsome.

If you stop by the office, you’ll find a number of improvements. New concrete platform and steps, a stone bench and handsome new railings. At the far end, handicapped persons should be able to visit the offices with no difficulty.

One of the conditions of a U.S. Department of Agriculture grant that the village is receiving for its \$4 million water-main replacement project is to make its premises compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act. Last year plans were drawn up to improve handicapped access to the village office on Hanover Street.

The village engineer estimated it would cost about \$32,000. However, only two bids came in for the work.

Concord Excavating was the low bid at \$46,417, but since even that was too high, DPW director Jason Blossom

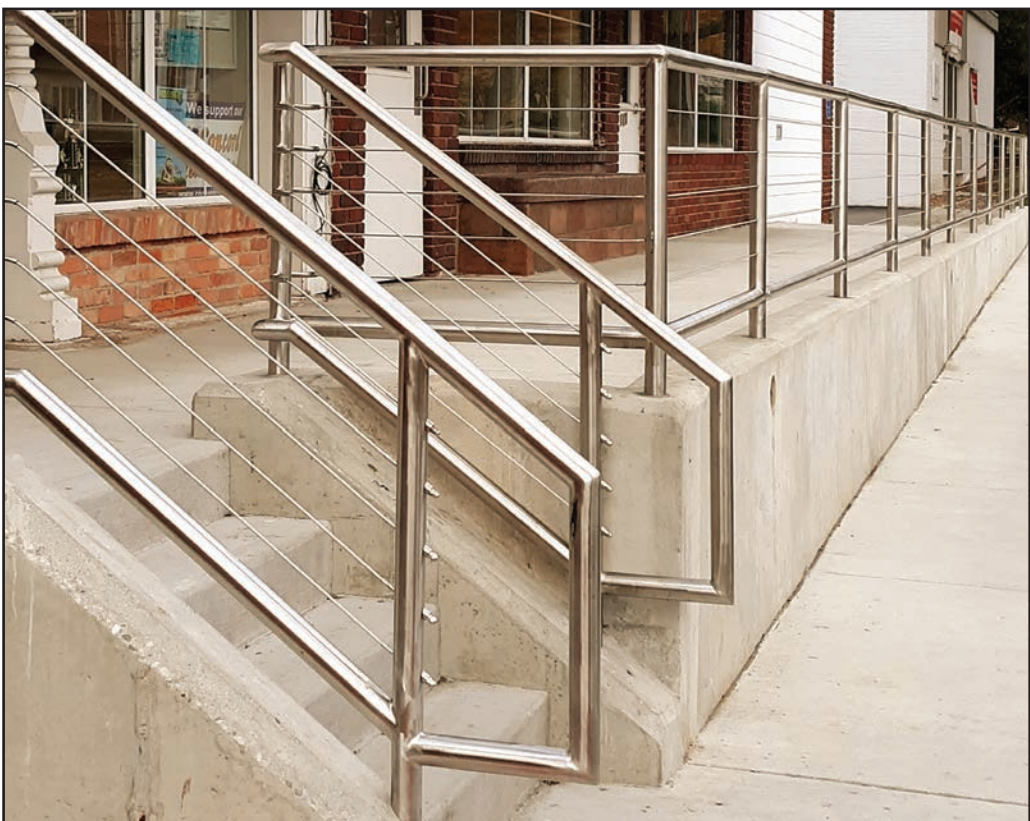
and the contractor pared down the cost by removing or changing some items in the project. The revised bid ended up at about \$39,000.

The council voted unanimously to award the bid to Concord Excavating.

From the get-go, the project encountered various problems. One of them was that a sub-contractor did unacceptable work on the original railings. The work was then given to another subcontractor.

Here’s what Village President Jeremy Bush had to say about it: “Jackson Industrial Construction (JIC) located here in Concord completed the project with local village resident and JIC employee Teddy McVeigh being the principal welder, installer and worker on the project. Teddy took great pride in completing this project in his own community and he did a great job.”

The new railings and entrance to the Concord Village offices are complete.



Photoby Ken Wyatt